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THE STORY OF THE ILIAD. By the Rev. Prof. Alfred J. Church. Macmillan's School Library. Macmillan & Co., New York, 1892, pp. VI., 314.

Few writers of stories for the young have succeeded so well as Rev. A. J. Church in putting in popular form the masterpieces of Greek and Roman literature. He is not a translator but a storyteller with the rare ability of keeping to his text. *The Story of the Iliad* is one of his latest productions and one of the best. It is a revision of a part of the older volume, *Stories from Homer*, but as its title indicates the narrative is continuous and gives a complete sketch of the Iliad. The interpolations are so numerous and the verbal changes so frequent that the new edition is really a new book. It renders in simple English much of the fervor and dramatic spirit of the great epic, and it is sufficient praise to say that the author not only shows his readers the plains of Troy but induces with reality the misty legends of the place.

The chief interest for teachers in the appearance of the present volume is that it is the first issue of "Macmillan's School Library of Books for Supplementary Reading." The publishers announce that it will be followed by "such of their books for the young as have already by their popularity and recognized excellence acquired the right to rank as standard reading books." Yonge's *Book of Golden Deeds*, Kingsley's *Madam How and Lady Why*, and Palgrave's *Children's Treasury of English Song*, have closely followed the initial number of the series. They are well bound, printed on good paper and, with one exception, in large type.

The significance of such a series—offered now by most publishing houses—is an encouraging sign of the times. It is coming to be recognized that mere intellectual acumen is not the *summum bonum* of educational methods; there is a higher end and that end is *life*. The routine of school discipline is too often made an end in itself, and for the narrow school a book of indifferent selections may suffice for reading material. The school that aims to bring its pupils in contact with the higher life and the realities of life will demand such masterpieces from all literatures as will best serve to meet the requirements of growing minds to inspire them from the outset with a love for good reading. Publishers in issuing such series as Macmillan & Co. now offer, are doing much to advance right methods and in proportion as they place good reading within reach of all do they deserve recognition and support at the hands of school-men.

—James E. Russell.

THE REALM OF NATURE; AN OUTLINE OF PHYSIOGRAPHY. By Hugh Robert Mill, D.Sc. 336 pp. 19 colored maps and 68 diagrams. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.  
University Extension Manuals, edited by Professor Knight.

The author states this book to be "an outline of the more important facts regarding the structure of the Universe, the form,